Space News ROUNDUP!

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God speed John Glenn, again

John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth, will return to space with the STS-95 crew of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*, scheduled to launch in October. Glenn will serve as a payload specialist.

Glenn made history 36 years ago when he strapped himself into a nine-by-seven foot capsule atop an experimental Atlas rocket and became the first American to orbit the Earth. Recently he asked NASA if he could fly again to conduct space-based research on aging, but only if he met the agency's physical and mental requirements.

"Not only is John Glenn a Marine test pilot, an astronaut, and the first American to orbit the Earth, he brings a unique blend of experience to NASA," said NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin. "He has flight, operational, and policy experience. Unlike most astronauts, he never got the opportunity for a second flight. He is a part of the NASA family, an American hero, and he has the right stuff for this mission."

Glenn, who still flies his own plane, flew 149 missions as a Marine fighter pilot in World War II and Korea, and was hit by enemy fire 11 times. As a test pilot, he set a transcontinental speed record and recently set a record for speed on a flight from Dayton, Ohio to Washington.

"Needless to say, I'm excited to be back and I'm honored and I'm privi-

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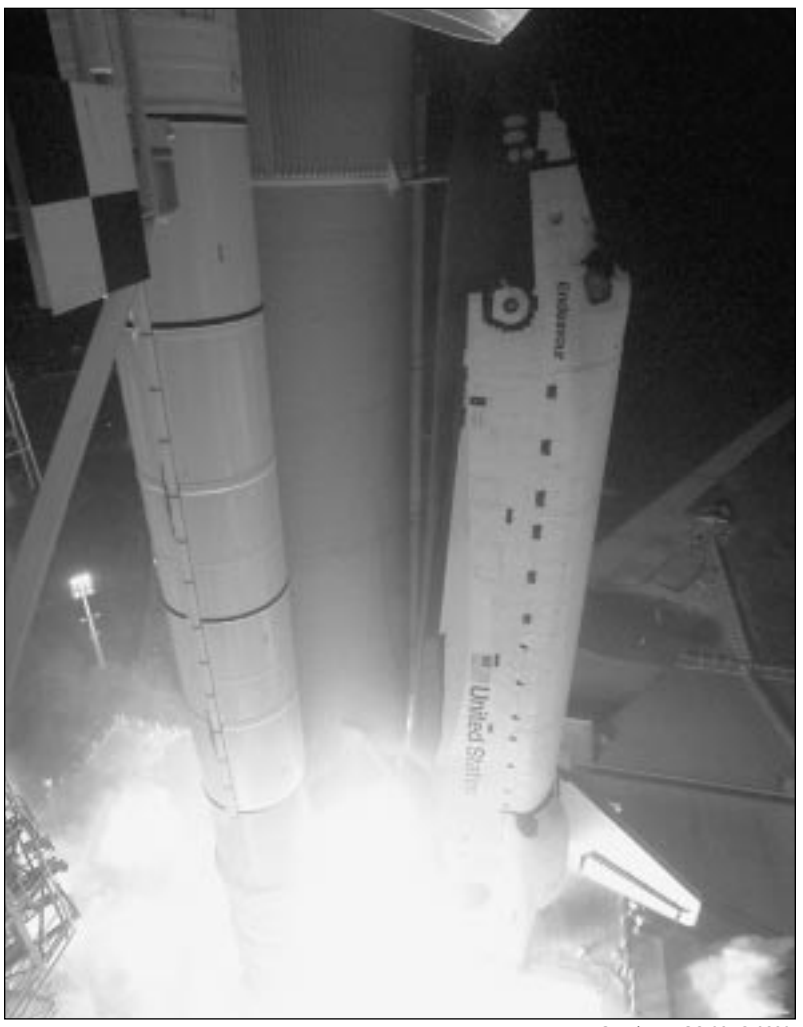
John Glenn



NASA Photo KSC-98EC-0229

The Space Shuttle *Endeavour* cuts a bright swath through the dark sky as it blazes a trail toward the Russian Space Station Mir. *Endeavour* lifted off at its scheduled time of 8:48 a.m. CST Jan. 22.

Thomas arrives aboard Mir; Wolf heads for home

The Space Shuttle *Endeavour* was scheduled to land Saturday at Kennedy Space Center following a successful swap of Astronaut Andy Thomas for Dave Wolf aboard the Russian Mir Space Station.

"Thanks for coming to get me," Wolf told STS-89 Commander Terry Wilcutt as the two embraced after the hatches between the two space ships were opened Jan. 24. "I'm not sure whether I live in Russia, space or America, but I know it's going to be America next."

Wolf, who was a Mir crew member for 119 days and will have been in orbit for 128 days by the scheduled landing time Saturday, joined Mir Commander Anatoly Solovyev and Flight Engineer Pavel Vinogradov in greeting Wilcutt and the rest of the STS-89 crew - Pilot Joe Edwards, Payload Commander Bonnie Dunbar and Mission Specialists James Reilly, Mike Anderson, Russian Salizhan Sharipov, and Thomas—inside *Endeavour* following the 2:14 p.m. CST Saturday docking.

Wilcutt eased the 100-ton *Endeavour* smoothly into its docking port over southeastern Russia, west of Kazakhstan, at an altitude of 246 miles. Through the final phases of the rendezvous, Dunbar exchanged radio greetings with Solovyev, Vinogradov and Wolf.

"You guys look great, this is a lot of fun," Wolf said. "This whole thing is touching me more than I expected, seeing the shuttle."

Astronaut Andy Thomas officially became a member of the Mir 24 crew late Jan. 25 and Dave Wolf became a member of the STS-89 crew, but not until a difficulty with Thomas's Soyuz capsule pressure suit could be resolved.

"I see I have an awful lot to learn. I'm sure I'll have a fascinating time," Thomas said during the welcoming ceremony in Mir's Core Module, in which all 11 spacefarers exchanged

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Russia nominates Ryumin for shuttle-Mir mission

The Russian Space Agency has nominated veteran cosmonaut Valeriy Ryumin, Ph.D., to fly as a mission specialist on STS-91, set for a May 1998 launch on *Discovery*.

Ryumin, manager of the Russian Phase 1 Mir-Shuttle Program, is training with the STS-91 crew at JSC. He is a space flight veteran, having spent 362 days in space over three missions. He was the flight engineer on the Soyuz 25 mission, then flew on the Soyuz 32 mission to Salyut 6, spending 175 days there from Feb. 25 to Aug. 19, 1979. Ryumin's last space flight came as a member of the Soyuz 35 mission, on which he spent 185 days in space from April 9 to Oct. 11, 1980.

STS-91 will mark Ryumin's first space shuttle flight and first visit to the Mir space station. Already named to the crew are Commander Charlie Precourt, Pilot Dom Gorie, and Mission Specialists Wendy Lawrence, Franklin Chang-Diaz, and Janet Kavandi.

Mission Specialist Andy Thomas will join the STS-91 crew as he returns from a four-month research mission on Mir. Thomas' departure from Mir will bring to an end more than two years of a continuous U.S. presence on Mir, beginning with Shannon Lucid in March 1996. Thomas arrived on Mir Jan. 24 as a member of the STS-89 crew.

The Phase 1 Program of shuttle/Mir dockings is a precursor to the International Space Station, maintaining a continuous American and Russian presence in space and developing the procedures and hardware required for an international partnership in space.

First space station module heads to Russian launch site

By Kari Kelley

This week's journey of a special railroad car carrying the first piece of the International Space Station from a Moscow factory to its launch site in Baikonur, Kazahkstan, marks a major milestone in the construction of the multinational outpost.

This U.S.-funded and Russian-built control module, also known as the FGB, was scheduled to depart the Khrunichev factory aboard the rail car Tuesday, beginning a 1,200 mile, five-day train journey to Baikonur, where it will begin five months of launch preparations and final testing.

Representatives from NASA, the Russian Space Agency, Boeing and Khrunichev Industries unveiled the FGB flight unit Jan. 17 at the Khrunichev manufacturing site in Moscow. The event commemorated the completion of the control module at the manufacturing plant and its readiness for pre-launch testing.

"When the control module arrives at Baikonur, all of the elements for our first two launches will be undergoing final launch processing," International Space Station Program Manager Randy Brinkley said. "The year of the International Space

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Photo courtesy Boeing

The International Space Station control module, or FGB, sits on the manufacturing floor at Khrunichev Research Center.